

Big Eight forms study committee for tournament

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—The Big Eight Conference announced Friday the formation of a committee to study the feasibility of a post-season conference basketball tournament.

Commissioner Chuck Neinas said the conference's basketball coaches had made the suggestion.

"Underscore that this is only a study committee," Neinas said. "It will report back to the conference athletic directors and faculty representatives in December, and then some action will be taken."

He said if the post-season tournament is adopted it would be a four day meet and the winner would represent the conference in the NCAA tournament.

Presently, the conference champion, on the basis of a 14-game schedule, advances to the NCAA tournament. The Atlantic Coast Conference currently is the only major conference that determines its NCAA representative by a post-season tournament.

Neinas also said that if the conference goes to a post-season tournament, the annual holiday tournament in Kansas City would be abandoned.

The six-man committee named to study the post-season tournament concept consists of Athletic Directors Clyde Walker, Kansas, and Lou McCollough, Iowa State; Coaches Sox Walseth, Colorado, and Jack Hartman, Kansas State; Sports Information Director Bill Callahan, Missouri, and Neinas.

The conference also will continue to use the 30-second clock next season, he said, but will not employ three officials.

The two experimental rules have been used the last two seasons. Neinas said the 30-second clock rule would be mandatory only for conference games and by mutual agreement for non-conference games.

"I think it's only fair to say that the three officials concept was not well received," Neinas said.

The commissioner said he did not think "financial reasons had anything to do with dropping the three official experiment."

In other action at its spring meeting, the conference:

- Lifted the one-year probation against the University of Colorado imposed last May for recruiting violations.

- Set a \$3 minimum ticket price for sale of basketball tickets to the public. The minimum price for football tickets is now \$7.

- Announced the adoption of junior varsity football programs in light of the NCAA rule that only 30 football scholarships can be awarded annually. Neinas said the junior varsity programs does not prohibit a school from having a freshman program "if they so desire."

- Allowed the University of Oklahoma to charge more than the \$7 for football tickets with the additional funds being used to pay off a bond for a 9,000-seat addition to its football stadium. Neinas said the maximum additional charge would be \$2, but specifics would be set by the university.

- Announced that a committee of athletic directors has proposed specifics for a recruiting policy to be used by all conference schools.

"The athletic directors are concentrating on coming up with meaningful penalties so that the so-called innocent athlete is not penalized," Neinas said.



Chuck Courtney blasts from a sand trap in the second round of the Colonial Open golf tournament Friday. Courtney shot a 66 to lead after 36 holes with a 136. The third round will be held today. (UPI telephoto)